GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1201
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
FOREIGN VISITS BY MINISTER
UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries visited by the Minister during the last two years and the details of the agreements signed; and

(b) the amount spend on the foreign visits and the details of the benefits accrued to the country therefrom?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a & b) The information for the period from 1.4.1999 to 1.3.2001 is furnished below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Minister and period of visit	Country Visited	Total Expenditure on the Visit	Purpose of the visit and Benefits accrued to the Country therefrom etc.
1.	Dr. C.P.Thakur Minister(WR) 19-22 March, 2000	The Hague, Netherlands	Rs.2.01 Lakhs Approx.	Participated in the Ministerial Conference at the invitation of Dutch Govt. and enabled to present India's viewpoint on the Global Water Vision & Framework for action which highlights importance of water and its future development and discussion on draft declaration. A Ministerial Declaration was issued at the end of the conference and no agreement was envisaged to be signed.
2.	Mrs. Bijoya Chakrabarty Minister of State(WR) 17-19 March 2000	The Hague, Netherlands	Rs.2.22 lakhs Approx.	Participated in discussion on gender issues and water use management during 2nd World Water Forum Meetings. Presented India's viewpoint and exchanged information at the Political level.
3.	Dr. C.P.Thakur Minister (WR) 26-29 March 2000	Geneva, Switzerland	Entire Expenditure Borne by the Organizers	To participate in the WHO's PDT Meeting in his individual capacity

4.	Smt. Bijoya Chakravarty, Minister of State(WR) 25-29 September 2000	Bangladesh Approx.	Rs.72,000/-	Goodwill visit to Bangladesh at the invitation from Bangladesh Govt. to visit Brahmaputra Delta, arsenic affected areas in Bangladesh and Jamuna bridge in Brahmaputra aprt from courtesy call on PM of Bangladesh and Minister of Water Resources, Bangladesh. The visit was successful mission towards strengthening bilateral relationship between the two countries in the field of water resources.
5.	Shri Arjun Charan Sethi, Minister (WR) 10-14 January, 2001	Bangladesh Approx.	Rs.72,000/-	to attend the 34th meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission at Dhaka as the Leader of the Indian delegation as per the agreement between the two countries dated 24.11.1972. Discussions were held regarding sharing of Ganga waters, sharing of Teesta waters, border rivers problems, construction of Ganga Barrage at Bangladesh and arsenic problem etc.